a consultant. As per the study report, the proposed National Waterway is viable for development.

(e) No specific time frame could be prescribed in this regard at this stage.

Completion of National Highway No. 34

1897. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on National Highway No. 34 from Lucknow to Balia has not yet been completed in all respects;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that after completing the working from Lucknow to Sultanpur, the remaining distance from Sultanpur to Balia *via* Kazipur-Shahganj-Azamgarh-Balia, has been left over and no action has been taken since long leaving the road in dilapidated conditions and dangerous for vehicles; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government for immediate completion of this National Highway No. 34 from Sultanpur to Balia (U.P.) by converting it into double lane from Lucknow to Balia?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Lucknow-Sultanpur-Kazipur-Shahganj-Azamgarh-Balia road is not National Highway No. 34 but is State Highway No. 34 of Uttar Pradesh. Hence, the responsibility for its construction, maintenance and development vests with the State Government.

USA interest in Chandrayan-I Mission

1898. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in India's space mission to the moon during the last two years, along with its status as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that United States of America has expressed its interest in placing its own payload aboard first Indian spacecraft to moon, Chandrayan-I; and

(c) if so, Government's response to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Considerable progress is made under Chandrayaan-1 in the last two years. Spacecraft configuration as well as selection of core payloads from India and announcement of opportunity payloads from abroad have been finalised. The Preliminary Design Reviews of Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft and payload systems have been completed. The development of the spacecraft & scientific instruments and establishment of deep space network are progressing satisfactorily. Chandrayaan-1 is planned for launch in 2007-08 on board India's PSLV.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) After a scientific-merit based selection process, two US payloads have been accepted to be included in Chandrayaan-1 mission.

Engineers of DDA

1899. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around two thousand engineers of Delhi Development Authority are kept idle and Government are wasting huge expenditure on their salary and perks;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether DDA's Engineers Association have made any representation for getting work responsibilities to them; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto and the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it is not a fact that its Engineers are kept idle.

(c) and (d) DDA has informed that Engineers Association have made representation expressing its apprehension that there may not be